

WANDERERS END ON A BRIGHT NOTE

Worley Returns And Says: 'Ankle Was Fine'

By "Chiltern"

Wycombe Wanderers 4, St. Albans 0

LEN WORLEY, who broke an ankle against St. Albans in January, made his Isthmian League comeback in the return game at Loakes Park on Tuesday night. He had a grand game, injecting new life into what has been a tired-looking forward line, and afterwards said: "The ankle was fine. I got a couple of twinges, but nothing to worry about."

It was Wycombe's last league game of the season. And to round it off Paul Bates cracked home the club's 100th league goal—his personal 50th in all games.

After recent sluggishness it was great to see the old Worley-Bates partnership back in action. Worley, if still a bit slow, has lost none of his old skills, and time after time he set moves in motion with an intelligent first-time pass.

And former first teamer Brian French was given his first league chance of the season on the left wing. He too played a fine game, running about a lot, tackling hard and centring with precision.

It was the fourth time these two sides had met this term. Until Tuesday they were all square with an Amateur Cup draw and a win apiece. So honour was at stake at Loakes Park.

But St. Albans didn't seem interested. They were a far worse side than the ones which gave Wanderers a run for their money previously.

Do not let this detract from the Wycombe performance though. They were a combined unit once more, attacking ferociously and defending with spirit.

In the 10th minute Bates missed his third penalty on the trot, but made up for it in the second-half when he got a second chance from the spot when Gale was tripped.

With the crowd holding its breath, he shot home underneath the falling Smith. If not a well-taken spot-kick it was at least a confidence restorer.

Wycombe went ahead in the 29th minute through Horseman. This was a brilliantly taken goal. Worley chipped the ball forward and the inside-left controlled the awkwardly bouncing leather, beat Lawrence, and shot home from an acute angle.

With Bradshaw tackling well and French running in a determined fashion, Wycombe were worth more than their one goal interval lead.

Beck had a spanking shot brilliantly saved by Smith before Bates' face-saving penalty.

Horseman showed his fine positional sense when he headed Wycombe's third from a right-wing cross, and Bates brought a great cheer when he hammered home the side's 100th league goal 10 minutes before the end.

French set the goal up after a fast run down the left flank. He did well to get his pass in, being harassed by a determined Gladwin who was booked for continual shirt-pulling.

Samuels too had a good game, showing excellent ball control in the lively conditions.

Wycombe — J. Maskell; D. Bradshaw, J. Beck; B. Baker, I. Rundle, C. Gale; L. Worley, K. Samuels, P. Bates, T. Horseman, B. French.